Unbudgeted Spending

1540. SHRI SURENDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative figure for unbudgeted spending as on 1st July, 1996;

(b) what are the reasons for this; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to control unbudgeted spending?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Every item of expenditure of the Government is required to be covered by sanctioned provision in the Grant for a year. Any incidence of expenditure exceeding the sanctioned provision in a Grant is known only at the year-end after the Appropriation Accounts for the year become available. The position in this regard prevailing at any mid-year point (like, July 1) is, however, not available as monthly accounts cannot throw up this information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All Governmental expenditure are incurred with the sanction of competent authority. The sanctioning authority has to ensure availability of sanctioned provisions in the Grant before authorising the expenditure. Where it is likely to be exceeded or any new item of expenditure comes up during the year, necessary provisions are made through Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Proposal for new airports in Karnataka

1541. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION pleased to state:

(a) how many new airports are planned in Karnataka:

(b) whether the existing airports at Hubli, Mysore, Hassan, Bellary will be made operational and smaller aircraft will be operated;

(c) whether regular daily services from Bangalore to Mangalore, Belgaum and Hubli will be introduced either by Indian Airlines or by Alliance Air; if so, by when; and

(d) whether new airstrip will be constructed in Bijapur?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Airports Authority of India has no plans to construct any new airport in Karnataka.

(b) 50 seater aircraft is operating to Hubli. Development of Hassan, Mysore and Bellary airports will depend on the traffic potential and economic viability.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 'No objection' of the Government of India has been issued to the Government of Karnataka for construction of a new airport at Bijapur on Build-own-Transfer/Build-own-Operate basis.

Rise in Veneral Diseases

1542. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Alarming rise in veneral.

(b) if so, whether the factors responsible in increase of veneral diseases have been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to make general about veneral diseases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The various factors found responsible for increase in the incidence

of Venereal Diseases, now better known as Sexually Diseases (STDs) are:

(a) Urbanisation and industrialisation leading to social disruption.
(b) Migration
(c) Work related travel and tourism.
(d) Change in social values.
(e) Change in Health seeking behaviour as a result of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign under Programme, because of which more cases are being reported.

(d) and (e) All media of communication including interpersonal communication are being used to create awareness among the people. An IEC package consisting of 4 types of posters, one folder and flip book has been prepared specifically for the persons attending STD clinics for wide display and distribution.

LTTE-Smuggler Nexus on Rameswaram Coastline

1543. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the custom officials at International Airport have busted an international syndicate involved in smuggling Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical used to refine Heroin from Opium to the opium growing countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan etc.;

(b) Whether the Custom authorities have conducted any investigation to establish who has manufactured the Acetic Anhydride, its manufacture has been restricted by Government and to find out other details in respect of smuggling of the same to the above opium growing countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) International Airport seized 874 Kgs of Acetic Anhydride on 27.5.96 while attempted to be smuggled out of the country. In the follow up investigation and raids 1241 kgs of Acetic Anhydride was recovered and seized. Investigations have not established the identity of the factory where seized Acetic Anhydride was manufactured. Hence no raid on any factory was undertaken in this regard. Investigations conducted in this connection did not reveal involvement of any international syndicate.

Closure of Indian Banks in London

1544. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks in London have been closed down on flimsy grounds to save other banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Indian bank branches in London were closed on flimsy grounds.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tourists Visiting Karnataka

1545. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist, Indian/foreign, who visited places of tourist interest in Karnataka during the last year and so far during the current year; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to provide facilities like cheaper accommodation for low-budget-tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) According to the information available from the State Government, estimated number of Indian and foreign tourists who visited places of tourist interest in Karnataka during 1995 were 44,67,516 and 59,991 respectively.